



15th November 2024

Headteachers update

Welcome to the end of week 2! We must be getting closer to Christmas as I heard my first Christmas song this week, coming from our very own Mr Smith, as he played music on the playground as part of this week's PE lesson. I am hoping it doesn't arrive too quickly as we still have so much that we want to do.

A nice busy week in school with lots of varied activities starting on Monday with Remembrance Day. It was wonderful to see the children wearing their poppies and all being very respectful, as we stood on the playground together at 11am to remember. The children then had an assembly in the afternoon, courtesy of Mrs Aynsley and our visitor Pam Walker from the local Parish.

On Tuesday, we were dazzled with a wide variety of Odd Socks which were worn to allow the children to express themselves, whilst celebrating the fact that we are all unique and different. Also on Tuesday we had Mr Balkwill in school, conducting a Pele Trust Safeguard review. He was amazed at how fantastic the children were and the amount of information they understood about safeguarding - well done everyone! Finally on Tuesday, we welcomed Pip Forsyth back into Belsay. I say 'back' into Belsay as Pip taught here over 10 years ago! Pip was delivering an assembly to support our application for an International School Award as we are linked with a rural school in Kirambo, Kenya.

Wednesday was our Come Dine With Us event for Willow Class. So lovely to see a variety of family members join our youngest pupils - see the class page below for more information.

Then today, we have been wearing spots and non-uniform to raise money for Children in Need. A big thank you for all your kind donations and helping us to get into the spirit of support for this amazing charity.

Our week ended in true Belsay style with our warming Hot Chocolates and Outstanding Achievement assembly, awesome work. With the amount of visitors and hard work that has been completed this week, I would like to say a huge congratulations to everyone, true superstars!

Please remember that next week we will be holding our Parent Consultations. These will take place in the classrooms so please wait patiently until it is your turn and if we all endeavour to stick to our times it will run smoothly. Your child's books will be available for you to look through whilst you wait.

I hope you have a great weekend and have some fun plans.

Mr Shaw



Safeguarding

Belsay Primary School is committed to keeping all children safe. Our staff regularly participate in safeguarding training and are fully aware of how to keep our pupils safe and what signs to look out for. Our pupils know they can share any concerns and we have robust policies and procedures in place which underpin safeguarding. It is our paramount priority to keep all children healthy and safe.

Remember our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) in school are **Mr Shaw and Miss Dixon**.

Safeguarding Update

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SCHOOL AVOIDANCE

School avoidance refers to refusal of attendance or non-attendance at school by a child or young person. In 2022-23, more than one in five children in England were found to be absent from school over 10% of the time. This guide focuses on school avoidance with an emotional basis, offering expert mental health advice. However, it's important to remember that school avoidance is a highly subjective experience which requires a tailored, individual approach.

UNDERSTANDING SCHOOL AVOIDANCE

REASONS FOR ABSENCE

School avoidance can be a complex phenomenon. The ways in which it presents itself can vary widely. This guide explores the reasons for absence and how to support the child and family. It also offers practical advice on how to support the child and family. It is important to remember that school avoidance is a highly subjective experience which requires a tailored, individual approach.

PATTERNS OF ABSENCE

There are a number of patterns of absence that can be identified. These include: regular absence, irregular absence, and complete absence. It is important to understand the reasons for absence and how to support the child and family. It is important to remember that school avoidance is a highly subjective experience which requires a tailored, individual approach.

COMPLAINTS ABOUT PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS

Children who are experiencing school avoidance may also experience physical symptoms. These can include: headaches, stomach aches, and fatigue. It is important to understand the reasons for absence and how to support the child and family. It is important to remember that school avoidance is a highly subjective experience which requires a tailored, individual approach.

IMPACT OF SCHOOL AVOIDANCE

School avoidance can have a significant impact on a child's learning and development. This can include: reduced academic achievement, social isolation, and low self-esteem. It is important to understand the reasons for absence and how to support the child and family. It is important to remember that school avoidance is a highly subjective experience which requires a tailored, individual approach.

LONG-TERM OUTCOMES

Children who experience school avoidance may also experience long-term outcomes. These can include: mental health problems, social difficulties, and low self-esteem. It is important to understand the reasons for absence and how to support the child and family. It is important to remember that school avoidance is a highly subjective experience which requires a tailored, individual approach.

CYCLE OF ABSENCE

School avoidance can be a cyclical experience. This means that a child may experience periods of absence followed by periods of attendance. It is important to understand the reasons for absence and how to support the child and family. It is important to remember that school avoidance is a highly subjective experience which requires a tailored, individual approach.

Advice for Parents & Educators

WORK TOGETHER

If a child's absence is linked to a mental health condition, it is important to work together with the child's mental health professional. This can help to understand the reasons for absence and how to support the child and family. It is important to remember that school avoidance is a highly subjective experience which requires a tailored, individual approach.

FOLLOW REGULAR ROUTINES

Establishing a regular routine can help to support a child's attendance. This can include: regular mealtimes, bedtime, and school mornings. It is important to understand the reasons for absence and how to support the child and family. It is important to remember that school avoidance is a highly subjective experience which requires a tailored, individual approach.

MANAGE OVERWHELMING FEELINGS

Children who experience school avoidance may also experience overwhelming feelings. These can include: anxiety, depression, and low self-esteem. It is important to understand the reasons for absence and how to support the child and family. It is important to remember that school avoidance is a highly subjective experience which requires a tailored, individual approach.

RECOGNISE POSITIVE STEPS

Recognising positive steps can help to support a child's attendance. This can include: celebrating small achievements, providing encouragement, and offering support. It is important to understand the reasons for absence and how to support the child and family. It is important to remember that school avoidance is a highly subjective experience which requires a tailored, individual approach.

Meet Our Expert

Dr. Sarah Jones, a leading expert in school avoidance, shares her insights on how to support children who experience school avoidance. She offers practical advice on how to support the child and family. It is important to remember that school avoidance is a highly subjective experience which requires a tailored, individual approach.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College



Attendance

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Willow	97.78	97.68
Maple	93.24	95.65
Alder	99.44	95.51
Oak	94.67	96.55

Did you know? Each pupil has 175 non-school days a year to spend however they like. The table below shows the significant impact of absence over time.

Days of school add up to lost learning						
Days in school	190	186	180	175	171	170
Percentage attendance	100%	98%	95%	92%	90%	<90%
	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Caution	Cause for concern	Serious concern

Absence Procedures if your child is ill, please keep them at home until they are well enough to return to school. Please notify us by phone call or email before 9.15am if your child is to be absent, and continue to inform us on a daily basis if they continue to be ill.

We have a continual focus on attendance and punctuality and this is of the utmost importance in your child's education. Please remember that our school gate closes at 8.55am as this is when our lessons begin. Anyone arriving after this time is classed as late and will miss valuable learning opportunities which take place immediately after registration, such as phonics.

What are the risks of missing a day of school?

'Being in school is important to your child's achievement, wellbeing and wider development. Pupils with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best GCSE results. The higher a pupil's attendance, the more they are likely to learn, and the better they are likely to perform in exams and formal assessments.' The Education Hub - Department for Education



Classroom updates - Willow Class

What a VERY busy Belsay week we have had. It has been lovely to mark so many special occasions this week and I have felt very proud of the children. They have been very considerate of others this week and it has been wonderful to see.

We started the week by looking at why we wear Poppies. The children knew they were to represent soldiers and some of the children remembered seeing the poppies in Ponteland at the weekend. We discussed the significance of a poppy and how it is a great way to show respect for others who have fought to keep us safe. I was very impressed with the children during the two minute silence. Everyone stood very still and it was silent. Well done Willow class!



Yesterday we all looked amazing in our spotty clothes for Children in Need. It was lovely to see how creative everyone had been. We spent the day discussing why Children In Need is so important and how the money raised can make a difference to so many people. The children were shocked to hear about other children and families not being as fortunate as themselves. They were eager to know what they could do to help others as in Willow class we are always looking for ways we can support each other. We discussed how we would be able to help by donating a small amount of money which would make a big difference.

As you will be reading this we will be enjoying our school trip to Seven Stories with Belsay preschool. The excitement has been building all week in anticipation of the trip and everyone was very excited to go on the bus and have a packed lunch from Mrs Hayes. I am hoping that by the time we return we will have created some lovely memories and I will share these all via Tapestry.



Friday Flyer

Willow class continued...

The highlight of the week was when we welcomed all of you into school to experience our very first Come Dine With Me event. I thoroughly enjoyed having you all in school and I know it meant a lot to the children. They loved being able to show you how independent they are at lunchtime and also enjoyed showing you the different areas of the classroom as well. Mr Bell did a tremendous job of cooking all of the lunch as well as the normal school lunch and I am sure you will agree it really was delicious. It was great to hear so many positive comments from you all and I have made sure I shared this with Mr Bell as well. I think my favourite comment came from Hallie's Grandma who said 'I can't tell you how much I have enjoyed that, thank you so much for allowing us to come into school,' I know this was echoed by many of you as well.



Thank you to everyone who was able to attend, we are already thinking of what we can do next! Have a lovely restful weekend and we will see you all again on Monday for parents evening.

Miss Houghton



Friday Flyer

Classroom updates - Maple Class

This week we had a class debate in English about *The King who Banned the Dark*. We debated whether banning the dark was a good choice or a bad choice for the town in the story. We worked in groups to discuss positives and negatives about the ban then made a conscience alley for the Queen to decide the verdict. In Art, we used the theme of light and dark to experiment with different mediums to show fading. Inspired by the class text, we used the colours of white, yellow, grey and black and explored the effect of paint, crayon, pastel and coloured pencil. Finally, we used our collaboration skills to explore our new orienteering course, it was great fun and we tried really hard!



Miss Dixon



Classroom updates - Alder Class



A great week for Alder class this week and one that has made me feel very proud of the children. I am seeing everyday just how much they are all rising to my challenges and expectations and I was incredibly proud of all of the class this week during the 2 minute silence for Remembrance Day. Everyone was very respectful and it allowed us all time to stop and be thankful.

In English this week we have been writing character descriptions linked to the character in our class text *The Queen of Darkness*. We have thought carefully about using amazing vocabulary, expanded noun phrases, similes and metaphors. I am really looking forward to reading the Big Write pieces of work that the children have completed this week, as I know they have been working very hard with this work.



In Geography we have been looking at the rivers of Europe and making comparisons with the River Nile. The children enjoyed learning about the key geographical features of each river and tried hard to remember the key facts for each one. To help us to remember the key facts we made our own Top Trump cards and enjoyed having time to play this game together. It was great to hear the children being able to recall the facts and challenging each other to name the river based on the facts they were told.

In Maths we have been learning about inverse operations, we have focused on addition and subtraction. We have used our knowledge of part, part whole, and a bar model to show addition and subtraction questions using only three numbers. We then used this knowledge to work out reasoning problems which required us to think carefully about which method we would need to use to work out the answer.

You may have heard from the children that sadly one of our stick insects passed away this week. Unfortunately it was unable to fully emerge when shedding its skin and although we tried everything possible to help it, there was nothing more we could do. From a sad situation came a happy moment for our class as the children showed me just how caring and compassionate they can be towards another living being.

Well done to everyone for showing such enthusiasm and dedication this week. I hope you all have a lovely weekend together and find time to do something enjoyable. I am looking forward to meeting you all next week at parents evening.

Mrs Aynsley



Classroom updates - Oak Class

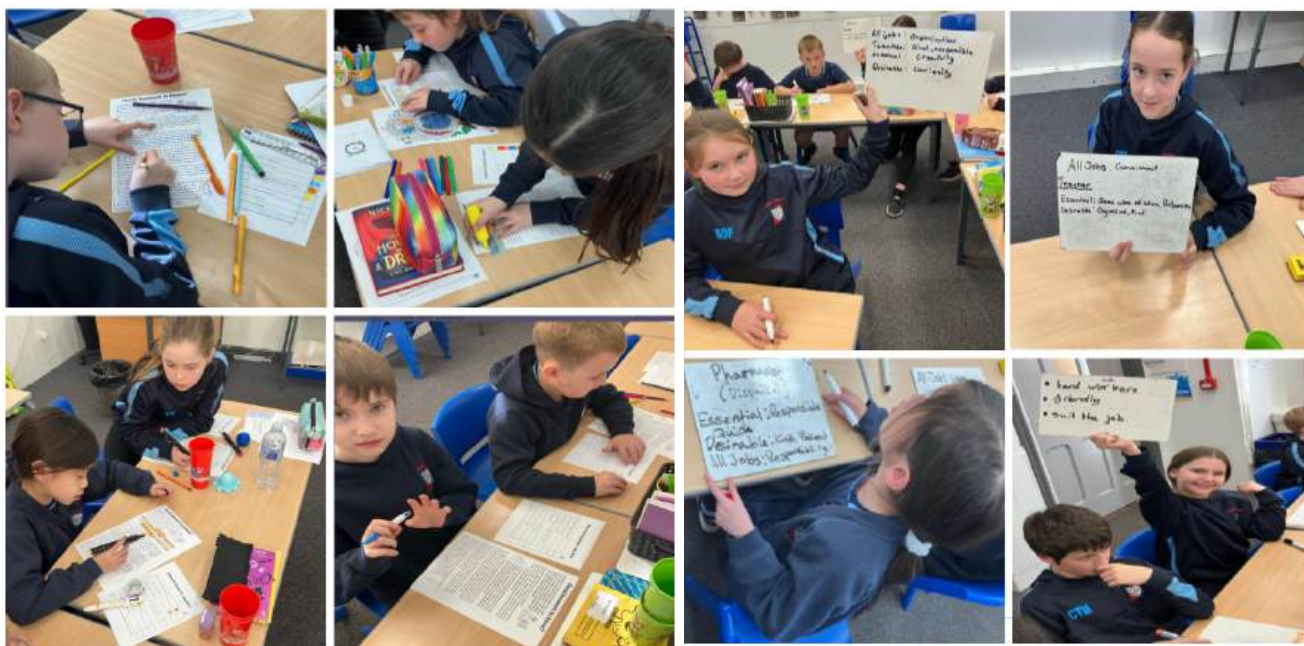
Another jam-packed week of high quality work here in Upper Key Stage Two as we have begun to really get our teeth into our topics for this half term.

Much like Jacob Marley himself, an old familiar has made an appearance in English. It has been brilliant to hear of how many of us have knowledge of the characters and events of the Charles Dickens classic "A Christmas Carol". Whether it has been through a book or a film adaptation, the pre-learning that the children have done around this book in their previous years will be absolutely priceless as we plough through this unit.

We have had some opportunities in Maths to embark on some whole class problem solving around multiplication and we are making great strides in this area. P.S.H.E, with careers still at the forefront, continues to go from strength to strength at Belsay and this week we have been considering the skill sets that we would need for not only the jobs of our dreams, but jobs and careers in general.

On a lighter note, thank you so much to all of you who continue to send pictures of your family pets to us. We have loved sharing these and will continue to do so. Wellbeing is massively important and our pets are a wonderful way to spread a little happiness.

Have a blessed weekend with your loved ones and we can't wait to have you back on Monday.



Mr. McLeod

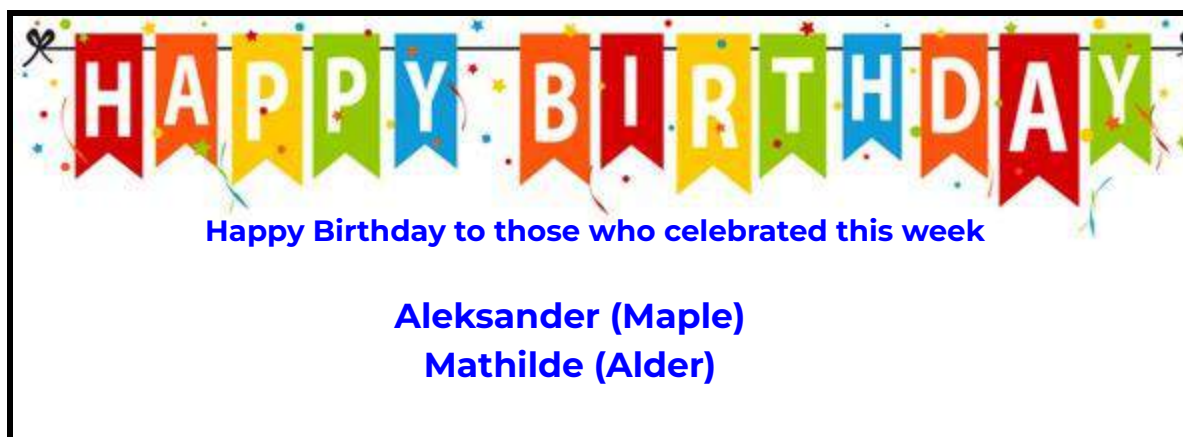


Friday Flyer

Dates for your Diary

Date	Time	
18th - 19th November	Evening	Parents Evening
5th December	1:45pm	Pele Trust Christmas Carol Concert @ St Mary's Church, Ponteland
6th December	TBC	Christmas School Performance
10th December	Lunchtime	Whole School Christmas Dinner
11th December	Afternoon	Pele Trust Orienteering Event
12th December	Evening	PTA Belsay Quiz and Taco night - adult only
12th December	9:15am	Oak Class - We Will Rock You - Ponteland High School Performance
13th December	All day	Teacher training day
17th December	8:45am departure	Whole school trip to Tyne Theatre
18th December	3:15pm	PTA Christmas Fair
19th December	Afternoon	Willow and Maple class Christmas Party
20th December	Lunch	School closes for Christmas

Events could be subject to change and will be communicated if required.



Belsay Primary School

Friday Flyer

Belsay School



Belsay Quiz and Taco night. Please purchase tickets in advance by completing this [Google Form](#) and by paying the 'Friends of Belsay School' account, using 'Quiz' and your surname as reference for payment. This event takes place in the Sir Stephen Middleton Hall.

The flyer is a festive graphic for a 'Quiz & Taco Night' event. It features a central red circular ornament with a white grid pattern, containing the text 'QUIZ & TACO NIGHT' in red. The background is white with snowflake patterns and a yellow ribbon with a gold bow. Text elements include: 'Belsay School PRESENTS.....' with the school crest; 'THUR 12 DEC' in the top right; '6.30 - 9PM' in a red starburst; 'FULLY STOCKED BAR WITH DRAFT BEER' in a red starburst; 'CHILLI TACOS' in a red starburst; 'QUIZ MASTER IS OUR VERY OWN MR MCLEOD!!' in a red starburst; 'TICKETS £10 | DINNER INCLUDED'; and 'PLEASE EMAIL SCHOOL WITH TICKET ORDERS AND TRANSFER PAYMENT TO PTA ACCOUNT' at the bottom.

Belsay School
PRESENTS.....

THUR
12
DEC

6.30 - 9PM

FULLY STOCKED BAR WITH DRAFT BEER

QUIZ & TACO NIGHT

CHILLI TACOS

QUIZ MASTER IS OUR VERY OWN MR MCLEOD!!

TICKETS £10 | DINNER INCLUDED

PLEASE EMAIL SCHOOL WITH TICKET ORDERS AND TRANSFER PAYMENT TO PTA ACCOUNT



Friday Flyer

**KIRKWHELPINGTON
VILLAGE**

**STEP INTO
CHRISTMAS**

Saturday 30th November
1-4pm

Please bring cash!

Gifts
Music
Tombola
Craft Stalls
Workshops
Children's Activities

Followed by
Lighting of Christmas Tree
on the Green

 **RAY WIND FUNDS**



Friday Flyer

Belsay Daycare & Purple Haze Flowers
Wreath Making Workshop
Thursday 5th December
6:30pm - 8:30pm
£35

Get into the festive spirit with this fun two-hour wreath making session led by **Diane James**. All materials provided. Takes place in School Hall & refreshments will be available.



Please pay £5 deposit when booking
Contact Laura on 07834 828524
Or Joana at Belsay Daycare to book

Raising funds for Belsay Daycare



Friday Flyer

Christmas Market

December 01 2024 11AM-3PM

Ponteland Memorial Hall NE20 9NX

- Craft stalls
- Festive foods
- Santa's grotto

Entry by donation £1
www.rotaryponteland.org.uk

